

FEBRUARY 22, 1816.

Read twice and committed to a committee of the whole House
to-morrow.

A Bill

In addition to an Act to regulate the Post-Office establishment.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That*
3 the following rates of postage be charged upon all letters and
4 packets (excepting such as are now excepted by law) conveyed
5 by the posts of the United States, viz :

6 For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper con-
7 veyed not exceeding thirty miles, *six cents* ; over thirty and
8 not exceeding eighty, *ten cents* ; over eighty and not exceeding
9 one hundred and fifty, *twelve and a half cents* ; over one hun-
10 dred and fifty and not exceeding four hundred, *eighteen and a*
11 *half cents* ; over four hundred miles, *twenty-five cents* ; and for
12 every double letter or letter composed of two pieces of paper,
13 double those rates ; and for every triple letter, or one composed
14 of three pieces of paper, triple those rates ; and for every packet :

15 composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more
 16 other articles, and weighing one ounce avoirdupois, quadruple
 17 those rates, and in that proportion for all greater weights: *Pro-*
 18 *vided*, That no packet of letters conveyed by the water mails
 19 shall be charged with more than quadruple postage, unless the
 20 same shall contain more than four distinct letters.

21 No post-master shall be obliged to receive to be conveyed by
 22 the mail any packet which shall weigh more than three pounds,
 23 and the postage marked on any letter or packet, and charged in
 24 the post-bill which may accompany the same, shall be conclu-
 25 sive evidence in favour of the post-master who delivers the same
 26 of the lawful postage thereon, unless such letter or packet shall
 27 be opened in presence of the post-master or his clerk.

28 Every four folio pages, or eight quarto pages, or sixteen oc-
 29 tavo pages of a pamphlet or magazine shall be considered a
 30 sheet, and the surplus pages of any pamphlet or magazine shall
 31 be also considered a sheet; and the journals of the legislatures
 32 of the several States, not being stitched or bound, shall be lia-
 33 ble to the same postage as pamphlets. Any memorandum
 34 which shall be written on a newspaper or other printed paper
 35 and transmitted by mail shall be charged letter postage, and
 36 any person who shall deposite such memorandum in any office
 37 for the purpose of defrauding the revenue, shall forfeit for eve-
 48 ry such offence, the sum of five dollars.

1 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That the post-master
 2 general be, and is hereby authorized to allow to each post-
 3 master such commission on the postages by him collected as
 4 shall be adequate to his services: *Provided,* That his commis-
 5 sion shall not exceed the following several rates on the amount
 6 received in one quarter; that is to say,

7 On a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, forty per cent.

8 On a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, twenty-five
 9 per cent.

10 On a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars, twenty per
 11 cent.

12 On any sum over two thousand four hundred dollars, eight
 13 per cent.

14 Except to the post-masters who may be employed in receiving
 15 and despatching foreign mails, whose compensation may be
 16 augmented not exceeding twenty-five dollars in one quarter;
 17 and excepting to the post-masters at offices where the mail is
 18 regularly to arrive between the hours of nine o'clock at night
 19 and five o'clock in the morning, whose commission on the first
 20 hundred dollars collected in one quarter may be increased to a
 21 sum not exceeding fifty per cent.

22 The post-master general may allow to the post-masters, re-
 23 spectively, a commission of fifty per cent. on the moneys aris-
 24 ing from the postage of newspapers, magazines, and pam-
 25 phlets; and to the post-master whose compensation shall not

26 exceed five hundred dollars in one quarter, two cents for every
 27 *free letter* delivered out of the office excepting such as are for
 28 the post-master himself, and each post-master who shall be
 29 required to keep a register of the arrival and departure of the
 30 mails, shall be allowed ten cents for each monthly return
 31 which he makes thereof to the general post-office.

32 The postmaster general may allow to the postmaster at New-
 33 Orleans, at the rate of eight hundred dollars a year in addition
 34 to his ordinary commissions, and may allow to the postmasters
 35 at Petersburg, Virginia, and Fayetteville, North-Carolina, one
 36 cent for every free letter received by them for distribution.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That the eleventh and
 2 twenty-eighth sections of the act entitled "An act regulating
 3 the post-office establishment," approved April thirtieth, one
 4 thousand eight hundred and ten, and the first and second sec-
 5 tions of the act entitled "An act in addition to the act regula-
 6 ting the post-office establishment," approved February twenty-
 7 seventh, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, be, and the
 8 same is hereby repealed.

1 **SEC. 4.** *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall take
 2 effect from and after the day of next.